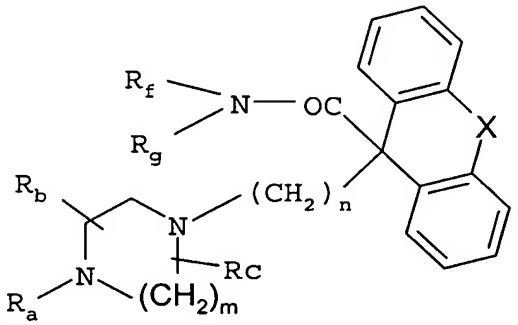
LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A compound of the formula (I)



, (I)

wherein

n denotes the number 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

m denotes the number 2,

X denotes a carbon-carbon bond,

R_a denotes a phenyl group or a ~~monocyclic~~ heteroaryl group chosen from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, oxazolyl and thiazolyl each substituted by the groups R_1 and R_2, wherein

> R_1 denotes a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, a C_{1-3}-alkyl group wherein the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl are optionally wholly or partly replaced by fluorine atoms, a C_{1-4}-alkoxy group, a phenoxy, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy, nitro or amino, wherein the

abovementioned phenyl of the phenoxy is optionally substituted by chlorine or methoxy, and

R_2 denotes a hydrogen, chlorine or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

or R_a denotes a ~~monocyclic~~ heteroaryl chosen from pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, thiophenyl, oxazolyl and thiazolyl or phenyl group which is substituted in each case by a phenyl group,

R_b and R_c independently of one another denote a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3}-alkyl group and

R_f denotes ~~,~~ C_{1-6}-alkyl wherein the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl are optionally wholly or partly replaced by fluorine atoms, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by fluorine or C_{1-3}-alkoxy~~,~~

R_g is hydrogen;
or
the enantiomeres, diastereomers or the salts thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

n denotes the number 3, 4 or 5.

Claim 13 (Previously amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

R_b and R_c independently of one another denote a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 11, wherein

n denotes the number 4,
m denotes the number 2.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): A compound chosen from

9-[4-(4-biphenyl-3-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-butyl]-9H-fluorene-9-carboxylic acid-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-amide and

9-[4-(4-biphenyl-4-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-butyl]-9H-fluorene-9-carboxylic acid-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-amide

or the enantiomeres, diastereomers or the salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously added): A physiologically acceptable salt of the compound according to claim 11.

Claim 17 (Previously added): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11 with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert carriers and/or diluents.

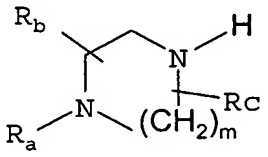
Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method of treating a disease selected from hyperlipidaemias, atherosclerosis ~~and the clinical sequela thereof~~ , diabetes mellitus, adiposity and pancreatitis, said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 11.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 19 wherein the compound ~~according to claim 11~~ is combined with another lipid-lowering agent.

Claim 21(Currently amended): Process for preparing a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 11, comprising

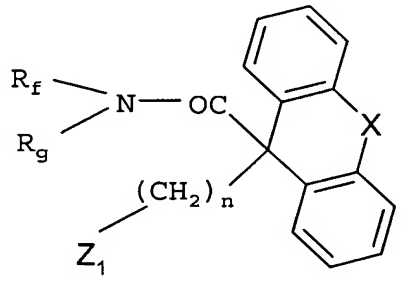
a) reacting under suitable conditions a compound of formula



, (II)

wherein

R_a, R_b and R_c are defined as in claim 11, with a compound of formula



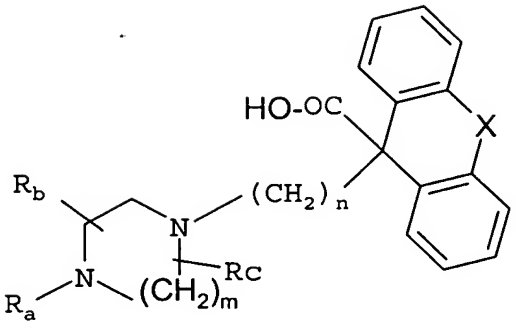
, (III)

wherein

n, R_f, R_g and the tricyclic system are defined as in claim 11 and

Z_1 denotes a nucleofugic leaving group, or

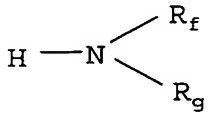
b) reacting under suitable conditions a compound of formula



, (IV)

~~wherein~~

with an amine of formula



, (V)

wherein

R_f and R_g are defined as in claim 11, or with the reactive derivatives thereof and

c) optionally reducing under suitable conditions the product of a) or b) which contains a nitro group if desired into a corresponding amino compound and/or

d) if R_f denotes a hydrogen atom alkylating under suitable conditions the product into a corresponding compound wherein R_f denotes a phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl group, and/or

e) cleaving under suitable conditions any protecting group using to protect reactive groups during the reactions and/or

resolving the product any of the product above into its stereoisomers and/or

converting any of the products above into the physiologically acceptable salts thereof.